## Kayla Lin

## **Mansfield Middle School**

Martin Luther King Jr. was an unrelenting champion of civil rights who ameliorated the world by leaving a legacy of love and hope. During the height of the civil rights movement, a period when African Americans endeavored for equality and freedom, Dr. King was a staunch advocate for peaceful protests. His leadership and lofty dreams inspired millions to fight for their beliefs toward a less prejudiced society.

History shouldn't be forgotten and left behind. It's a window into the past that we look to for guidance. The teachings of Dr. King transcends time. We are all created equal. We are all humans, regardless of race, gender, and background. We cannot change the way we look, but others can change the way they see.

I think of Dr. King's legacy in numbers: the 41 names on the Civil Rights Memorial, the 730 hours Congress spent debating civil rights legislation. Most importantly, I remember that it only takes one to make a difference. I hope to help people empathize and understand others, even if they aren't a certain race or gender. I will achieve my dream through my writing—I hope to write a book that encourages readers to not only fight for themselves, but for those around them as well. Writing will share my voice while showing others that their voices can be heard. Thanks to Dr. King, I am confident that individual boys and girls can personally create change in the world. Dr. King has made activism accessible.

Dr. King has proven the power of words, writing, and peaceful protest to uplift the lives, spirits, and aspirations of all races, genders, and backgrounds. Thank you, Dr. King, for your spark that has shed light on both racial injustice and human nature.